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REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the attention accorded to the instant application.

It is not believed that any fees are due with this response, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501468.

I. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that claim 2 is indefinite, specifically the limitation "wherein said second polarizing material has a polarizing characteristic substantially in quadrature from that of said first polarizing material."

Applicant has amended claim 2 so that the appropriate limitation has been corrected. Dependent claims 3-4 depend from corrected claim 2. It is believed that claims 2-4 are now in condition for allowance.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,821,989 to Lazzaro et al. ("Lazzaro"). The Examiner states that, as to claims 1 and 10, Lazzaro discloses a stereoscopic viewing system having a pair of liquid crystal shutter panels through which the time-multiplexed perspective images can be sequentially viewed in a substantially flicker-free manner by the left and right eyes of a human viewer. The Examiner states further that Lazzaro teaches shutters comprising a first polarizing material, and a twisted nematic liquid crystal cell as the active rotator. The Examiner asserts that Lazzaro teaches a second polarizing material disposed in the optical path between the liquid crystal shutter glasses and the display device.

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Applicant has amended claims 1 and 10 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which is regarded as the invention. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the "second polarizing material is situated in front of said display device."

The second polarizing material of the present invention is situated in front of the display device so that the perceived flicker of the 3-D image is reduced. The total perceived flicker is reduced since flicker from outside the display device area is eliminated. The switching of the shutter assemblies is not perceived at all when observing areas outside of the non-display environment (i.e. outside the display device area).

Lazzaro instead teaches a 3-D display system using stereoscopic viewing glasses which have shutter assemblies situated inside the viewing glasses. There is no teaching or suggestion in Lazzaro to place the second polarizing material in any other location than inside the viewing glasses.

Therefore, claims 1 and 10 are now in condition for allowance. Claims 2-3 and 11 are similarly in condition for allowance as they depend on independent claims 1 and 10. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

III. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lazzaro. The Examiner states that substantially, Lazzaro discloses the structure of the stereoscopic liquid crystal shutter glasses. However, the Examiner admits that Lazzaro does not disclose removing the polarizer nearer the display and installing another polarizer in the optical path between the liquid crystal shutter glasses and the display device. The Examiner asserts that it was well known and obvious to remove the polarizer from the shutter glasses and insert the polarizer nearer the display and install another polarizer in the optical path between the shutter and the display in order to replace scratched or damaged polarizers.

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Applicant has amended claim 5 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which is regarded as the invention. In particular, claim 5 has been amended to recite that the "third polarizing material is situated in front of said display device."

As Examiner admits, Lazzaro does not disclose removing the polarizer from the shutter glasses and inserting another polarizer nearer the display device. Claim 5 has been amended to recite that the polarizer is situated in front of said display device. Examiner's argument that in order to replace broken or scratched polarizers, a new polarizer is typically installed in the optical path between the shutter and the display does not apply to the method recited in the present application. The "third polarizing material" of the present invention is typically larger than the shutter glass since the polarizing material typically covers the whole display of the display area in order to provide a flicker-free observation of the non-display environment (See, Specification page 9, lines 1-5). The replacement of polarizers on the shutter glasses would not result in all of the recited features of the present invention since in the act of replacing the polarizer a flicker-free environment outside of the display area is not possible considering the size of the replacement polarizer.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes the claim 5 is in condition for allowance. Claims 6-8 which depend on claim 5 are similarly in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 4 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph objections and if rewritten as an independent claim incorporating the limitations of any intervening claims.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Applicant has introduced new claims 12 and 13, which are, respectively, rewritten claims 4 and 9 pursuant to the Examiner's indication.

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V. Conclusion

The amendments herein do not introduce any new matter. It is believed that the claims herein should be herein should be allowable to Applicant. Accordingly, early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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